

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
November 16, 2000
2:00PM
Room 433, Blatt Building

Members Present: William Barnet, Rosie Berry, James Bryan, Barbara Everson, William Gummerson, Alex Martin, Douglas McTeer, John Matthews, Nikki Setzler, Molly Spearman for Supt. Tenenbaum, Robert Staton, Larry Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes of October 19

The minutes of October 19 were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the ratings proposal would be published on November 17 with a public hearing scheduled for November 28. He indicated that the EOC must support vigorously the provision of technical assistance to schools rated Unsatisfactory and that special funds should be allocated for schools rated Below Average.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Subcommittee has examined program expenditure patterns and reports from EIA programs. A budget proposal to include technical assistance for schools rated Unsatisfactory is to be completed for EOC consideration at the December 6 meeting.

C. Parent Involvement: Dr. Anderson indicated that a staff group was working on the recommendations for incentives for businesses.

Senator Matthews asked staff to determine if there were differences in the EOC approach and that discussed by the Middle Grades Task Force.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Subcommittee is developing final plans for the community meetings and that the initial two meetings testing two different formats are scheduled for December 4. He asked all members to attend. He indicated that the Subcommittee is interested in increasing the impact of the ad campaign and expanding the billboard utilization.

Senator Matthews indicated that he was quite concerned about comments from educators that suggest they want to leave large numbers or groups of students out of the accountability system.

E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet called members' attention to the list of participants for the long-range planning committee.

Dr. Anderson provided information on the comparison of school performance from 1999 to 2000 PACT administrations.

Senator Matthews expressed concern that we have information on the effectiveness of the technical assistance model. There was discussion of the successes of the Teacher Specialist program. Senator Setzler reminded members that we must provide assistance to underachieving students regardless of the district in which they are enrolled. Mr. Staton pointed out the limitations on revenues and that South Carolina has tough decisions ahead.

Mr. McTeer indicated that he would share the Statement on High Stakes Testing promulgated by the American Educational Research Association.

IV. Remarks from A Key Constituency: First Steps

Dr. Baron Holmes discussed the purposes and methodologies of the First Steps program with members of the EOC. He outlined the "village democracy" approach to the program and the structure of the program evaluation.

V. Report on the Evaluation of Professional Development Programs

Dr. Bruce Haslam, Policy Studies Associates, Washington, D. C., presented the results of an 18-month evaluation of professional development programs. The evaluation is in compliance with §59-18-1930. The full report is to be provided to EOC members in December. [The PowerPoint presentation and recommendations are on file in the EOC offices].

Members of the EOC discussed the report. Issues of general concern included the failure to provide for follow-up activities, the general lack of understanding about the requirements of the state-adopted professional development standards and the need for schedules that accommodate teacher practice and feedback. Teachers reported a need for comprehensive work in the areas of assessment.

Mr. Martin indicated that one challenge is ensuring that local educators feel ownership of the state standards. He indicated that some educators are following a "wait and see" attitude. Mrs. Spearman pointed out the work the SDE is doing in this area, but also indicated the report offered good advice.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.